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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: **WATANABE, et al.**

Serial No.: 09/320,271 ✓

Group Art Unit: 2825

Filed: May 27, 1999

Examiner: LEE

P.T.O. Confirmation No.: 4409

For. SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE AND FABRICATION METHOD THEREOF

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT AND STATEMENT**  
**PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97(d)**

Attn: Group Director

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

March 17, 2003

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the document listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. One copy of the document is attached.

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted after the mailing of a final action, a Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, but on or before payment of the Issue Fee.

The undersigned hereby certifies that no item of information contained in this statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no information contained in this statement was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

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The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office can, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the documents cited in the attached Form PTO-1449 be made of record therein and appear on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.

A check is attached hereto which covers the \$180 fee set forth in 37 CFR § 1.17(p). The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee (or credit any overpayment) associated with this Statement to our Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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SGA/arf

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**23850**

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosure: \$ 180.00 fee; 1 reference